

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed November 19, 2007. Claims 1-10 are pending and rejected in this Application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case in view of the following remarks.

Section 101 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that “[t]he claims represent an abstract idea, directed solely to non-functional descriptive material.” *See Office Action*, Page 2.

Although Applicants believe that the claims as originally submitted do in fact recite statutory subject matter, in order to advance prosecution of this Application, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include “a computer-readable medium” and “a program of instructions encoded on the computer-readable medium.” Under M.P.E.P. § 2106.01(I), “[a] claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program is a computer element which defines structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and the rest of the computer which permit the computer program’s functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory.” Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 recites patentable subject matter. Claims 2-6 each depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1 and therefore recite patentable subject matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0002955 issued to Gadbois (“*Gadbois*”). The Office Action rejects Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0059107 A1 issued to Elmore (“*Elmore*”). The Office Action rejects Claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Elmore* in view of *Gadbois*. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons stated below.

Claim 8 is directed to a Web Services system that includes a registry in which businesses may register. The registry includes a hierarchical directory including at least one Domain object, at least one User object, and at least one Business Entity object. The at least one Domain object includes a directory prefix name, and the at least one Domain object is a root object of the hierarchical directory. The at least one User object identifies a user account for managing the at least one Business Entity object arranged under the at least one User object. The at least one User object is arranged under the at least one Domain object. The at least one Business Entity object includes at least one business name and at least one business contact. The at least one business contact includes at least one business address. The Web Services system includes a storage system for storing business information and accessible via the hierarchical directory.

The Office Action rejects Claim 8 and contends that the limitations of Claim 8 are disclosed by *Elmore*. However, *Elmore* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest “the at least one Business Entity object comprising at least one business name and at least one business contact, the at least one business contact comprising at least one business address.” The Office Action relies on elements 467 and 468 in Figure 19, and element 493 in Figure 21 of *Elmore* as the alleged Business Entity object, but this reliance is flawed. Elements 467 and 468 of *Elmore* represent products (both “switch equipment”). See *Elmore*, Paragraph 626. Similarly, element 493 of *Elmore* is directed to a generic representation of a product. See *Elmore*, Paragraph 626. Products, especially generic representations of products, in no way teach or suggest at least one Business Entity object, as required by Claim 8. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 8 is patentably distinguishable from *Elmore*.

Claims 9 and 10 each depend from Claim 8. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 9 and 10 are allowable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to Claim 8.

Claim 1 is directed to a Web Services Directory. The Web Services Directory includes a computer-readable medium and a processor. The processor is operable to execute a program of instructions encoded on the computer-readable medium, the program of instructions includes at least one Business Entity object and at least one User object. The Business Entity object is arranged under the User object. *Gadbois* does not disclose, teach, or suggest each of these limitations.

The Office Action contends that Organization1 222 and Organization2 224 of FIGURE 2 of *Gadbois* are User objects as defined by Claim 1 because “[n]odes 222 and 224 both represent objects that may be accessed by a user, thus making them user objects.” See *Office Action*, Page 3. Applicants respectfully disagree. In a final Office Action mailed June 25, 2007 (the “Final Office Action”), the Examiner concluded that “any object accessible by a user may qualify as a user object.” See *Final Office Action*, Page 9. Even assuming for the sake of argument only that “any object accessible by a user may qualify as a user object,” there is no suggestion in *Gadbois* that Organization1 222 and Organization2 224 may be accessed by users. Rather, *Gadbois* merely describes techniques for users to access Publisher Assertions 252. See *Gadbois*, Abstract and Paragraph 0035. At no point does *Gadbois* teach, suggest, or disclose that users may access Organization1 222 and Organization2 224. Thus, there is no support for the conclusion that Organization1 222 and Organization2 224 are User objects. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from *Gadbois*.

Claims 2-6 each depend from Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-6 are patentably distinguishable from *Gadbois* for at least the same reasons discussed above with regard to Claim 1.

Similar to Claim 1, Claim 7 also recites “at least one Business Entity object and at least one User object.” Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 7 is patentably distinguishable from *Gadbois* for at least the same reasons discussed above with regard to Claim 1.

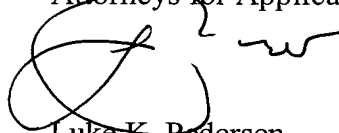
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stand ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Although Applicants believe no fees are currently due, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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